

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1046

By Halford

A RESOLUTION to congratulate John William “JW” King and Eunice Marie McDaniel King on the celebration of their seventieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 1944, amid the dark days of World War II, John William “JW” King and Eunice Marie McDaniel were joined in holy matrimony, and since that fateful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, one of the six children of Fay John King and Elsie Louise (Pope) King, John William “JW” King was born March 16, 1925, and grew up on the family farm in Rutherford; and

WHEREAS, one of the five children of Eunice (King) McDaniel and John Theron McDaniel, Eunice Marie McDaniel King was born August 22, 1925, and grew up in the China Grove community; and

WHEREAS, their storybook romance began at Rutherford High School when junior Marie began dating an older man, senior JW; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Rutherford High School, Mr. King joined the U.S. Navy in December of 1942 to proudly serve his country during World War II; he served on several war ships and was a radio man on the submarine U.S.S. Sarigo, sending Morse code to other ships in the convoy and studying business and accounting in his spare time; and

WHEREAS, near the end of his service in the Navy, Mr. King was traveling in a convoy on the SS William H. Welch Liberty Ship in the Black Bay off Fura Island in Scotland when the

ship's engine died in the midst of a northeastern storm that was generating fifty-foot waves; the ship was smashed against the granite cliffs of the island and broken in half; and

WHEREAS, nearly the entire crew was killed when they were thrown into the frigid sea, except for twelve survivors, including JW, who were rescued by Scottish shepherds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. King was honored with several medals for his patriotic service, including the Navy Service Medal; the European, Middle Eastern, and African Campaign medals; the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal; the American Campaign Medal; and the WWII Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, while her husband was serving overseas, Marie moved to Chicago to work on war-time projects; Marie acquitted herself well as Rosie the Riveter by making gun sights during the three years she lived there; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. King completed his four years of military service, the Kings returned home to Rutherford; Mr. King worked in the local bank as a teller, and Mrs. King kept the home fires burning as a housewife and mother; and

WHEREAS, they attended the First Baptist Church of Rutherford; JW served as the church's clerk and treasurer at different times, and Marie participated in church activities and the Women's Mission Union; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1956, the Kings moved to DeWitt, Arkansas, where JW had been promised a bookkeeping job by the president of The Smith Rice Mill, which subsequently became Pioneer Foods Incorporated; Mr. King worked his way up the corporate ladder to serve as the manager of the Dixie dryer elevator in DeWitt and was eventually promoted to the company's main office to serve first as controller and then as chief financial officer; and

WHEREAS, after the president of Pioneer Foods passed away, Mr. King was promoted to the position and he was also named a vice president of Pillsbury Incorporated; when Pillsbury sold the division to a competitor in 1986, he retired at the age of sixty-two, having worked thirty years for the company; and

WHEREAS, a gifted seamstress, Mrs. King sewed, crocheted, and did needlework for her family, friends, and charitable organizations, including St. Jude Children's Hospital; she also became a skilled artist and specialized in painting still objects and landscapes; and

WHEREAS, from 1978-2007, the Kings travelled across the country in their Airstream trailers, visiting every state in the Union and parts of Canada and Mexico; they joined the Wally Balm Airstream club, and JW served as rally controller in 1988 and treasurer in 1991; and

WHEREAS, fast forward seventy years, and Mr. and Mrs. King are once again living in the Rutherford community, having moved back in 1986 to help take care of JW's mother after his father passed away; and

WHEREAS, since moving back home, the Kings have been vital members of the community and were honored to serve as the Grand Marshals of the Davy Crocket Parade in Rutherford in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Kings rejoined the First Baptist Church in Rutherford and contribute their time and efforts to help the church grow and be a viable place to worship; they believe strongly in the benefits of a good Christian education and donate generously to Union University in Jackson to fulfill that purpose; and

WHEREAS, JW and Marie King are the patriarch and matriarch of a large and loving family which includes two children and their spouses, Patricia Marie and Les Poppenheimer and William Douglas and Darlene King; four grandchildren, Jessica Elrod, Melissa Taylor and her husband, Eric, Michelle Stuart, and Trey Poppenheimer and his wife, Celeste; two step-grandsons, Austin and Hagan; and six great-grandchildren, Seth, Andrew, Luke, Shawna, Olive, and Harper; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Kings' are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the family and many friends of John William "JW" King and Eunice Marie McDaniel King in honoring and congratulating this special couple on the celebration of their seventieth wedding anniversary and extend to Mr. and Mrs. King our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.